

AWARD OF CHILDREN CENTRE CONTRACTS
Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
22 November 2018
Deadline Date: December 2018

Cabinet portfolio holder:	Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Responsible Director:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director for People and Communities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan: Yes Unique Key Decision Reference from Forward Plan: KEY/12NOV18/07
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	Yes
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	No

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to authorise the award of a 1 year contract to:

- 1) Barnardos, the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the Central and East Locality from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 for the sum of £812 663
- 2) Spurgeons, the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the South Locality from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 for the sum of £177 080
- 3) Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the North, West and Rural Locality from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 for the sum of £428 360

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member's approval to award contracts as listed below each for a twelve month period, from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.:

- Barnardos, the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the Central and

East Locality from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 for the sum of £812 663

- Spurgeons, the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the South Locality from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 for the sum of £177 080
- Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the North, West and Rural Locality from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 for the sum of £428 360

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the constitution, in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (a).

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	No	If ‘Yes’, date for relevant Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 Children’s Centres are part of the Government’s agenda to improve outcomes for children – providing a place where families with children under 5 years can access a range of services which includes: early learning services; parenting and family support including relationship support, outreach services and information and support for families; child and family health services; and adult learning and employment support.
- 4.2 The Government has demonstrated its commitment to children’s centres by legislating to give them a statutory basis. The Childcare Act 2006 imposed duties on local authorities to improve the well-being of young children in their area and reduce inequalities between them, and to make arrangements to secure that early childhood services are provided in an integrated way in order to improve access and maximise the benefits of those services to young children and their parents. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 goes further. It inserted new provisions into the Childcare Act 2006 so that the Act now defines Sure Start Children’s Centres in law. It places duties on local authorities in relation to establishing and running children’s centres. The details relating to what Local Authorities must and should deliver through the children’s centre network is outlined in the Sure Start children’s centre Statutory Guidance 2013. (Department of Education).
- 4.3 There are 4 children’s centre hubs in Peterborough.
- South Locality – the children’s centre is located at Orton Malbourne, based in the Jigsaw Centre in Orton Malbourne.
 - North, West and Rural locality – the children’s centre is based in Paston, the Honeyhill Centre. Some outreach services continue to be delivered at the base at Watergall School, in Bretton.
 - Central Locality – Children’s Centre hubs are located at First Steps Children’s Centre in Welland, with an Outreach operating at Fulbridge School, and a second hub is based in East, at Durham Road, with outreach services delivered

from a base at Gladstone Primary School.

- 4.4 Existing contracts for the children's centre delivery are due to expire on 31 March 2019. There are several elements to the existing contract which includes:
- South and North, West and Rural delivery – Spurgeons provide the core children's centre delivery, which includes early learning activities, family support including parenting, access to family health services and support with adult learning and employment to children under 5 years and their families. Spurgeons also provide some family support to families with children aged between 5 to 11 years, in the south and north of the city, which supports the early help agenda in Peterborough.
 - Central delivery – Barnardos provide the core children's centre delivery, which includes early learning activities, family support including parenting, access to family health services and support with adult learning and employment to children under 5 years and their families. Barnardos also provide some family support to families with children aged between 5 to 11 years, in the central area of the city, which supports the early help agenda in Peterborough. Barnardos also provide return interviews for Peterborough children missing from home. This is provided to children missing from home on a **city wide** basis. This service is under review but will continue into 2019/20.
- 4.5 We are seeking approval to award the interim contracts detailed below from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, in order to maintain service continuity until proposals for the wider Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) workstream are further developed. The CYPF programme is aiming to integrate services across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and includes within the scope the Healthy Child Programme (health visiting, Family Nurse Partnership and school nursing) as well as Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Clinical Commissioning Group commissioned specialist therapy services.
- 4.6 Peterborough City Council has an ambition to work collaboratively to commission children and young people's services between Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. The intent is to integrate and rationalise existing contracts and services to develop an integrated, consistent and equitable service across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The scope of this work will include the services delivered as part of the healthy child programme, namely health visiting, Family Nurse Partnership, school nursing and includes the children's centres.
- 4.7 The development of the children, young people and families service will involve the integration of a wide range of contracts across three different organisations. Looking at the children's centre services as part of this wider review will enable the identification of opportunities for a more joined up support for families.
- 4.8 This however involves complex arrangements to fully integrate contracts and delivery, and is taking time to plan and develop across the whole system of provision. The children's centre services will be part of this overall service offer, and it is therefore necessary to find an interim solution to continue to deliver the current children's centre services whilst the new plans continue to be developed and delivered. It is therefore proposed to directly award interim contracts to the existing service providers, whilst plans for the children, young people and family services are developed.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Service providers have been engaged to ensure they are able to continue to deliver the services
- 5.2 The proposal to award interim contracts to the current providers will not result in any changes to the current delivery. However, there will be consultation undertaken on any changes resulting from the development of the 0 – 19 services across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Through exercising approval in relation to this decision, it is expected that the provider would be able to continue delivering this service. This arrangement will ensure the continuity of service provision, whilst a wider review of the children, young people and families services is progressed.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 7.1 To maintain the delivery of the children's centre services, whilst plans are developed and put in place to deliver a children, young people and families service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 To do nothing – the children's centres are a statutory provision, which provides a range of services to children under 5 years and their families. Therefore arrangements need to be in place to continue delivery of services
- 8.2 To complete a competitive tendering exercise to seek children's centre providers – this was rejected on the basis that there are plans being underway to develop a children, young people and families service, which will include procurement options. To complete a competitive tendering exercise on one element of the provision, would not be effective use of resources.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 *Legal Implications:*
The long term provision of these services beyond 2020 shall be achieved by Peterborough City Council working collaboratively to commission children and young people's services with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, which will achieve greater efficiencies and provide better delivery of these statutory services. The re-procurement of these services has been considered in the interim period, however any interim procurement would be a sizable and complex task. The delivery of these statutory services will be directly awarded to the current providers for the interim period whilst the procurement of these services is underway and conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

9.2 *Equalities Implications*

The core purpose of the children's centre services is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged families, in order to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness. The ongoing delivery of the children's centre offer will ensure that services continue to be delivered to support young children and families in Peterborough.

10. DECLARATIONS/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance, April 2013,
Department of Education